

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



EPA's BEACH Report: Virginia 2010 Swimming Season

May 2011

Introduction

The BEACH Act of 2000 requires that coastal and Great Lakes states and territories report to EPA on beach monitoring and notification data for their coastal recreation waters.

The BEACH Act defines coastal recreation waters as the Great Lakes and coastal waters (including coastal estuaries) that states, territories, and authorized tribes officially recognize or designate for swimming, bathing, surfing, or similar activities in the water.

This fact sheet summarizes beach monitoring and notification data submitted to EPA by the Commonwealth of Virginia for the 2010 swimming season.

Figure 1. Virginia coastal counties.

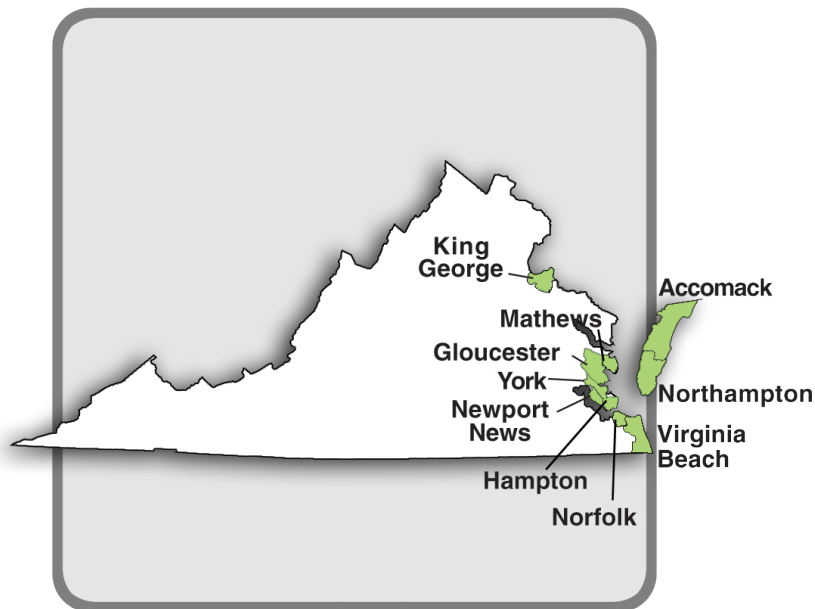


Table 1. Breakdown of monitored and unmonitored coastal beaches by county for 2010.

County	Total Beaches	Monitored	Not Monitored
ACCOMACK	1	1	0
GLOUCESTER	1	1	0
HAMPTON	3	3	0
KING GEORGE	1	1	0
MATHEWS	1	1	0
NEWPORT NEWS	4	4	0
NORFOLK	9	9	0
NORTHAMPTON	2	2	0
VIRGINIA BEACH	22	22	0
YORK	1	1	0
TOTALS	45	45	0



2010 Summary Results

How many notification actions were reported and how long were they?

When water quality standards are exceeded at a particular beach, Virginia issues a beach advisory that warns people to avoid contact with the ocean water. A total of 16 monitored beaches had at least one advisory issued during the 2010 swimming season. Eighty-two percent of Virginia's notification actions lasted two days or less. Figure 2 presents a full breakdown of notification action durations.

What percentage of days were beaches under a notification action?

For Virginia's 2010 swimming season, actions were reported about one percent of the time (Figure 3).

How do 2010 results compare to previous years?

Table 2 compares 2010 notification action data with monitored beach data from previous years.

What pollution sources possibly affect investigated monitored beaches?

Possible sources of pollution affecting Virginia's investigated monitored beaches were not identified in 2010 (Figure 4).

For More Information

For general information about beaches:

www.epa.gov/beaches/

For information about beaches in Virginia:

www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/DEE/BeachMonitoring/

Figure 2: Beach notification actions by duration.

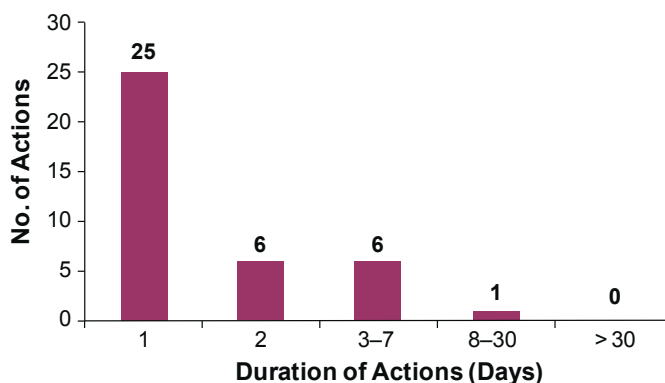


Figure 3: Beach days with and without notification actions.

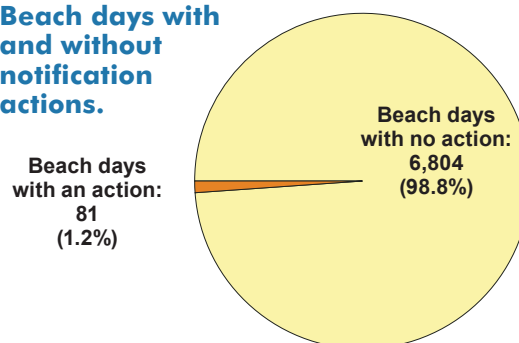


Table 2. Beach notification actions, 2008-2010.

	2008	2009	2010
Number of monitored beaches	44	44	45
Number of beaches affected by notification actions	6	9	16
Percentage of beaches affected by notification actions	14%	20%	36%
Percentage of beach days affected by notification actions	< 1%	< 1%	1%

Figure 4: Percent of investigated monitored beaches affected by possible pollution sources (45 beaches).

